



**Yolo County Board of Education and
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools**

**Resolution #23/24-11
National American Indian Heritage Month (November 2023)**

WHEREAS, Native Americans are considered to be the first Americans to live in and populate the United States and by the time the first explorers and settlers arrived from Europe, Native Americans had populated the entire North American continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Gulf of Mexico all the way to the northern reaches of Canada; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the United States Congress passed Public Law 101-343, which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November as “National American Indian Heritage Month” to recognize significant contributions and rich legacies of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, California Governor Newsom in fall of 2019 acknowledged California Indian genocide and wants Californians to learn Native American history; and

WHEREAS, Section 51204.5 of the California Education Code states that instruction in social sciences shall include the early history of California and a study of the role and contributions of both men and women, Native Americans, and members of other ethnic and cultural groups (i.e., African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, persons with disabilities) to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, with particular emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary society;

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Board of Education recognizes that our county office of education is located on the territory of the Patwin people, including the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Yocha Dehe Tribal Council approved a Land Acknowledgement Statement on July 23, 2019, which is applicable for use in Yolo County;

We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young

through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

WHEREAS, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is preserving Patwin traditions and cultures by helping families, protecting the environment and supporting communities in need; and

WHEREAS, National American Indian Heritage Month provides an opportunity to learn about the history of the original stewards of our land and their vibrant cultures, rich traditions and deep-rooted heritages; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the Yolo County Office of Education convened the Yolo California Indian Curriculum and Professional Learning Advisory Group, to introduce culturally responsive approaches to teaching and learning that reflect the accurate perspectives and histories of California's indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, in April 2022, the Yolo County Board of Education approved a Land Acknowledgement to be read at the start of its monthly meetings to pay homage to the indigenous people and the land on which YCOE and its schools and sites are located; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools shall recognize the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month and encourage educational sites to recognize the contributions of Native Americans through our curriculum and activities at school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Yolo County Office of Education continue to advance the work of the Yolo California Indian Curriculum and Professional Learning Advisory Group to: provide on-going professional learning opportunities to educators; share and support the implementation of Tribal and community approved land acknowledgements and maps; develop professional learning and curriculum resources correlated to California's History Social-Sciences (CA HSS) standards; and focus on Wintun homeland history, ecology, and contemporary lived experience.

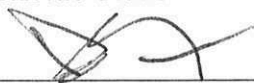
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to every school district in Yolo County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools at a meeting held on September 12, 2023 by the following vote:


AYES: Esquivel, Moreno, Salud-Ambriz, Yip, Zendejas

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



Tico Zendejas, President
Yolo County Board of Education



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools